Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /120 W

----- 091483 /12

R 221110Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3241

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 3797

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, SU

SUBJECT: SUDANESE REACTION TO OPEC PRICE INCREASES

1. DURING RECENT OPEC MEETING IN QATAR, SEVERAL KHARTOUM PRESS ARTICLES (REPORTED SEPARATELY TO USIA) WERE CRITICAL OF ANTICIPATED SUBSTANTIAL OIL COST INCREASES. MINFIN MAMOUN BEHIERY, AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEC PRICE INCREASES, SAID IN PRESS INTERVIEW INCREASE AFFECTS SUDANESE INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, "WE DO NOT DENY RIGHT OF ARAB BROTHERS TO HAVE BEST PRICES FOR THEIR PRIMARY COMMODITY AND WE (SUDANESE) SHARE WITH MOST OF THIRD WORLD AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ASPIRATION TO IMPROVE BY ALL MEANS OUR REVENUES FROM BASIC COMMODITIES IN ORDER TO PAY FOR INCREASED PRICES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS."

2. ON SAME DAY BEHIERY MADE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED DEPARTURE OF BANK OF SUDAN GOVERNOR NIMIR FOR VIENNA WHERE HE WAS TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH OPEC FOR \$7.5 MILLION LOAN TO SUDAN.

3. COMMENT: GOS HAS CAREFULLY BALANCED ITS PUBLIC
POSTURE ON OPEC PRICE INCREASES SO AS NOT TO ANGER ARAB
FINANCIERS AND TO REMAIN CLOSE TO OTHER LDC'S, PARTICULARLY
IN AFRICA. SAUDI AMBASSADOR HAS RECENTLY BEEN ACTIVE IN EXPLAINING
SAG OPEC STAND TO TOP GOS OFFICIALS. PERHAPS NOT
COINCIDENTALLY, AMOUNT OF OPEC LOAN TO SUDAN VERY CLOSELY
APPROXIMATES EXPECTED ADDITIONAL COST OF OIL IMPORTS
RESULTING FROM RECENT PRICE INCREASE. FOR RECORD, DESPITE
GENERALLY IMPORTANT ROLE SAUDIS PLAY HERE, ALMOST ALL
PETROLEUM IMPORTS ARE FROM IRAQ (CRUDE) OR KUWAIT (PRODUCT),
AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, FULL PRICE IS PAID FOR THESE IMPORTS,
THOUGH IRAQIS AGREED PROVIDE SOME UNRELATED CONCESSIONAL AID WHEN
OIL DEAL ARRANGED. BREWER

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Message Attributes

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